

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
MARCH 15, 2022**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

BOARD WORKSHOP FOR THE PROPOSED STATEWIDE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS GENERAL ORDER REISSUANCE

**DISCUSSION**

In 2006, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted the first statewide Sanitary Sewer Systems General Waste Discharge Requirements Order for consistent statewide regulation of publicly owned sewer systems. Through the existing General Order, the State Water Board regulates sewage spills and local system management of approximately 1,100 publicly owned sewer systems of one mile or more of sewer pipes. The existing General Order requires public agencies to report sewer spills, develop, implement, and update a Sewer System Management Plan, and conduct internal sewer program audits. The Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) enforce the General Order with the assistance from the State Water Board, Office of Enforcement.

State Water Board staff developed a draft General Order reissuance to update the 15-year-old Order. The proposed General Order reissuance:

- Updates the General Order findings per Water Board priorities established through regulations and resolutions adopted since the 2006 adoption of the existing Order;
- Expands the scope of General Order coverage to allow discretionary regulation of privately owned sewer systems if required by a Regional Water Board;
- Clarifies that the sewer spill prohibitions include spills to waters of the State (surface waters and groundwaters - not solely waters of the United States);
- Addresses cost of compliance, transparency, and efficient use of staff resources;
- Augments existing system condition assessment requirements for Enrollees to observe for exfiltration, and prioritize remediation accordingly;
- Addresses “system resilience” by incorporating prioritization of system rehabilitation and repair in high risk system areas;
- Requires Enrollee submittal of electronic sewer system service area boundary map;
- Includes a proposed regulatory incentive of reduced public reporting for less than 50-gallon spills to promote operator certification and improved system performance.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. The State Water Board will not be taking an action during the Board workshop.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. The State Water Board will not be taking an action during the Board workshop.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. The State Water Board will not be taking an action during the Board workshop.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

This is a workshop for the State Water Board to receive oral public comments. The State Water Board will not consider adopting the proposed Order. Therefore, there is no staff recommendation at this time.